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Million Veterans Working on Farms

More than a million veterans of World War II had returned to farm work in the United States by July 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced in a preliminary report released today. There were 1,045,000 veterans employed on farms, 713,000 as farm operators and members of farm operators' families and 332,000 as hired workers. Veterans made up 9 percent of the total number of persons working on farms.

The number of veterans working on farms was slightly over three-fourths the number of farm workers who enlisted or were inducted in the armed forces up to July 1, 1945. ^{1/} In the Northeast and on the Pacific Coast, the number of farm workers who were veterans was larger than the number of enlistments and inductions. In the other geographic divisions, returning veterans accounted for 70 to 80 percent of the number of farm workers who had left to enter the armed forces.

In the South, less than 20 percent of the returning veterans were employed as hired workers. The proportions of family and hired workers were the same for veterans as for all farm workers. In all other regions, hired workers made up a larger proportion of veterans employed than they did of all farm workers. In the Northeast and the West, over half of the veterans employed on farms were working as hired hands, while in the North Central States more than a third of veterans were hired workers.

For the entire country veterans employed on farms made up 8 percent of the number of farm operators and unpaid members of their families at work on July 1. The West and South had the largest percentage of family workers who were veterans. Proportionally fewer veterans were noted among family workers in the Northeast and the North Central States. The extremes were 10 percent in the Mountain States and $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent in the Middle Atlantic States.

In the West North Central States, veterans made up 20 percent of the total of hired workers, a larger percentage than in any other region. This compares with the national average of 12 percent. Veterans were relatively more numerous as hired workers in the North Central and the Western States than in other regions. In the South, they made up a considerably smaller percentage of hired workers, especially in the South Atlantic States where only 7 percent of hired workers were veterans.

Shown in Table 1 is the distribution, by regions, of veterans employed on farms as family and hired workers and their relative proportions. Data on agricultural employment of veterans in March, April, May, and June, as published by the Bureau of the Census ^{2/} are shown in Table 2. These are given along with the estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the weeks ended June 1 and June 29.

^{1/} Number of enlistments or inductions reported by Selective Service.

^{2/} There are several differences between the estimates of farm employment including veterans, as made by the two agencies. An important source of difference is the fact that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates include those workers who do two or more days of farm work during the reporting week but spend a greater part of the week working at a non-agricultural job. These are not included in the Census farm employment estimates. Also workers doing less than two days of farm work during the reporting week may be included in the monthly estimate of the Bureau of the Census but are excluded in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates. In addition there are a number of other differences in coverage.

Table 1 - Farm employment: Veterans of World War II working on farms, United States and geographic divisions, week ended July 1, 1946.

Geographic Division	WORLD WAR II VETERANS WORKING ON FARMS ^{1/}					
	Number			Percent of all Workers		
	Total	Family	Hired	Total	Family	Hired
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(Percent)	(Percent)	(Percent)
New England	22	12	10	8.0	6.6	10.8
Middle Atlantic	59	22	37	7.8	4.7	12.9
East North Central	122	76	46	8.1	6.2	16.4
West North Central	169	105	64	9.3	7.0	20.4
South Atlantic	177	143	34	7.8	8.0	7.1
East South Central	167	147	20	9.4	9.4	9.3
West South Central	190	147	43	9.5	9.8	8.7
Mountain	62	32	30	13.1	10.3	18.5
Pacific	77	29	48	10.9	9.1	12.4
United States	1,045	713	332	9.0	8.0	12.2

^{1/} Preliminary estimates based on returns from 17,920 farmers on the July General Crop Schedules.

Table 2 - Farm employment: Total persons employed and veterans employed, March to July 1946.

AGENCY AND WEEK	AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT		
	Total	Veterans of	Veterans as
	(thousands)	World War II	percentage of
		(thousands)	total

Bureau of the Census (MRLF)

March 3-9	7,580	650	8.6
April 7-13	8,190	760	9.3
May 5-11	8,880	850	9.6
June 2-8	9,980	920	9.2

Bureau of Agricultural Economics

May 26-June 1 ^{1/} ^{2/}	11,422	1,035	9.1
June 23-29 ^{1/} ^{2/}	11,586	1,045	9.0

^{1/} Agricultural employment estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are consistently higher than those of the Bureau of the Census because of differences of concept and definition.

^{2/} Preliminary estimates based on returns from approximately 18,000 farmers on the June and July General Crop Schedules.